



APD NEWS

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Cadets teach cadets about Austin's diverse communities

The 115th Austin Police Department Cadet Class will teach fellow class members today and Friday, December 19th about the variety of cultures living in Austin.

The presentations are the findings from the Cadet Community Immersion program that is designed to introduce and educate the cadets about the diverse community they will protect and serve following graduation on January 2, 2009. The presentations will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the J.J. "Jake" Pickle Research Center at 10100 Burnet Road in the UT Commons Conference Center. The presentations are open to the public.

The cadets were divided into nine groups in order to learn about the following cultures: Mental Health, Asian, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender, African American, Middle Eastern, Undocumented Immigrant, Homeless, and Physically Disabled. Sixty eight cadets took part in the research project that included conducting one-on-one interviews with individuals from each of the cultures.

The 109th Cadet Class was the first class to take part in the immersion program. The unique program was developed by staff at the Academy and is an important and vital element in educating cadets about different cultures in Austin. The Immersion Projects purpose is to "encourage cadets to identify the diverse groups within the community, learn about other cultures as they exist in Austin, explore how other groups view police, and share what they've learned with their peers."

Media Advisory: Cadets will be available for interviews on Friday, December 19, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the UT Commons Building. Please call PIO to schedule interview times.

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